

2021 - 2023  
CREATIVE SCHOOLS, CASE STUDY

ST JOSEPHS POST-PRIMARY  
ROCHFORTBRIDGE, CO. WESTMEATH



School Coordinator:  
Yvonne Muldoon



Creative Associate:  
Aideen McHugh

## VISION:

To have whole school involvement,  
affording every student the opportunity to  
tap into their creative skills



1200 STUDENTS  
Across 2 year  
cycle



75 TEACHERS



1 SCHOOL  
COORDINATOR  
= MUSIC & SPHE  
TEACHER

## INVESTING TIME IN THE UNDERSTANDING PROCESS



# SCHOOL EXPECTATION



## CHALLENGES & GETTING STARTED WITH IDEA GENERATION



## Student comments on Creative School Process



Great opportunity for students to share their ideas

great to have the involvement of each individual in the school

I like how student involvement was a big part of the project, but I felt like it was hard for the group to decide what to put down on the paper together, we all had different ideas

There were lots of crazy ideas

when it came to the final vote it was difficult to decide what project to choose

With over 1,000 students in the school it was hard to come up with an idea that suited everyone but the majority ruled

It's going to be really cool working with a professional project manager who's coming to our school to help us

I am really excited to be on the Creative School Team and we are busy planning for our food and music festival

I like how they let us have limitless ideas on what we could do

# CAPTURING YOUTH VOICE

## IDEA GROUPING, COUNTING & FEEDBACK



Meeting in person was easier than online and gave an easier way to share ideas

It was a good way to use your imagination

I found it hard to decide when I was voting because I liked all the options that we came up with

The sticky notes were a really good way to put in suggestions

It was all up to the students to decide the project

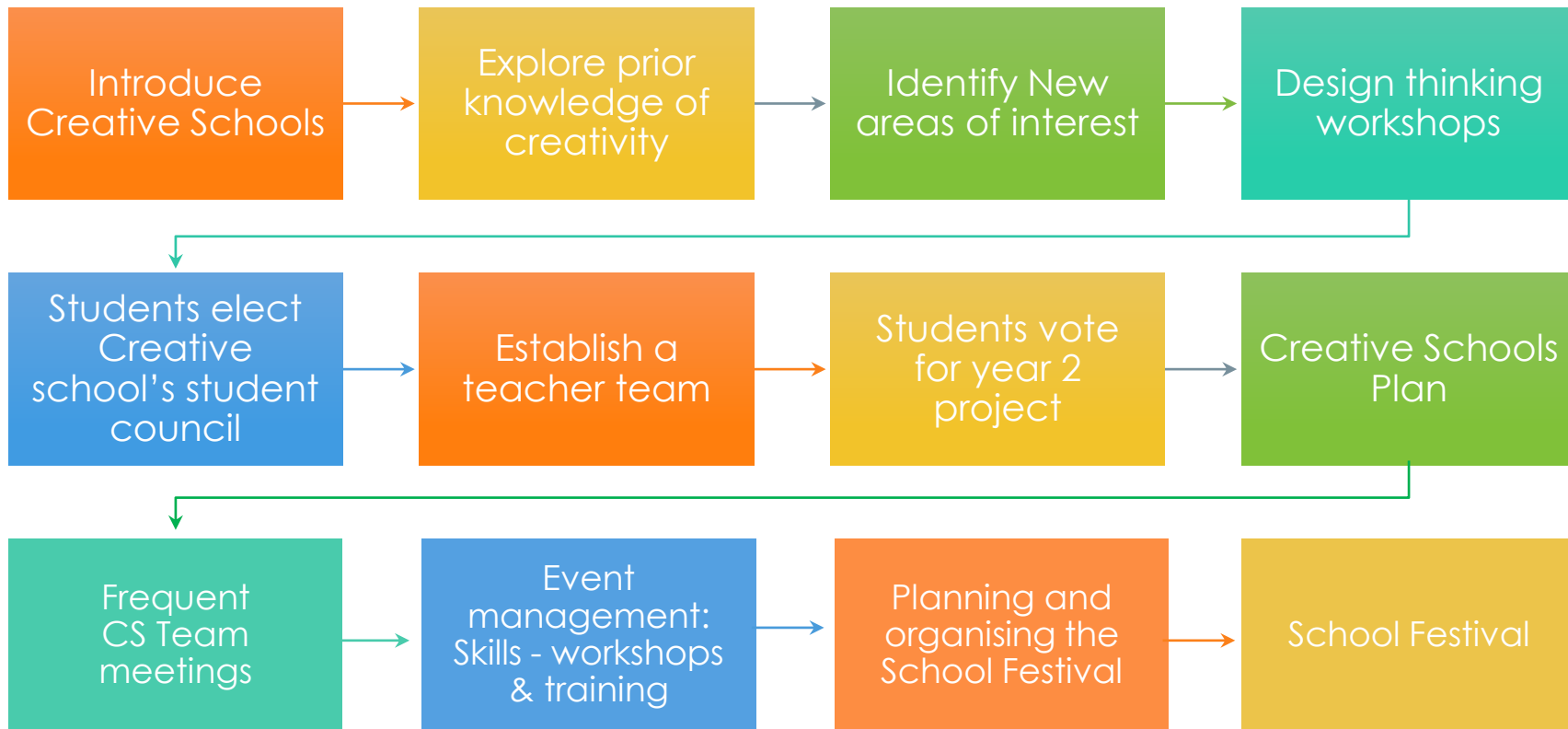
Aideen was really good and organised and explained it really well

It was a long process and some students were not that interested

Sometimes it was hard to hear our teacher and Aideen because everyone was so enthusiastic and loud

We were all listened to

# OUR JOURNEY MAP



# ENGAGING CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS

## Event Manager – Past Pupil:

Past Pupil, Joanne Kennedy met with the Creative School team and delivered a workshop on event management.

## Podcasting company:


Createschool Company came to the school to do a podcasting workshop with the Creative School Team. All TY students have had this workshop this term to upskill in podcasting.

## Event Management Company:

Approved Production Event Management Company funded by Westmeath Community Development delivered a series of workshops on events management to the Creative School Team and the TY Students.



# PREPARING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

A photograph of three students sitting at a desk in a classroom, wearing large headphones and looking at a laptop screen. The student on the left is a girl with glasses, the middle one is a boy, and the one on the right is a boy with his back to the camera. The background shows a window with a view of trees and a brick wall.

Frequent  
Creative Schools  
Team Meetings in  
School


Support from Principal

Allocation of roles and  
responsibilities within  
Creative Schools  
Team

Applying Event  
Management skills

Creative Schools  
Teacher Team

Getting permissions  
and community  
involvement



The Creative School Team  
presents

# St. Joseph's Creative Arts Festival

come along and enjoy the activities:

*Busking Competition*  
*Portrait Drawing*  
*Food Vendors*  
*Dance Workshops*  
*Pet Farm*  
*Games and Competitions*

9:30-11am 3rd and 6th  
year students

11:15-1pm 1st and 2nd  
year students

2:15-3:30 5th and TY  
students

Wondershare  
Filmora

Thursday  
31st March  
School Pitch

Created with  
Wondershare Filmora free plan

# SCHOOL FESTIVAL DAY





The background image shows a classroom setting. In the foreground, a student with glasses is seated at a desk, looking towards the camera. To the left, another student is partially visible. The desks are yellow and green. A black laptop is open on a desk in the background. A blue water bottle is on a desk to the right. The wall is light-colored with some decorations.

## OUTCOME, AND FOLLOW-ON FROM CREATIVE SCHOOLS

The development of the school podcasting studio is almost complete and over 200 students have been upskilled in this area through podcasting workshops. Going forward this will be used to share news as well as being made available to all subject departments. It will be an invaluable tool for junior cycle students in completing and presenting CBA (classroom based assessment) work.

The success of the “bring your pet to school” element of the festival has resulted in the school purchasing a school dog, Bella the Newfoundland. Bella is currently in training and will be a full-time member of the school community next September.

The Food, Music and Arts Festival will be an annual event to coincide with Smile Week in the school – positive mental-health week.

Creative Schools student team will continue to focus on and grow creative interests in initiatives within the school.

# KEY TAKE-AWAY POINTS FOR US



Engage young people



Overcoming Challenges: Online interactions didn't work well for us –we reassessed & adapted



Iterate: For example - Design Thinking workshops worked in person with large groups in canteen (ideation, finding patterns, design principles, make tangible before project planning)



Youth Voice: Vote for majority preference - when main areas of interest were identified.



Student Leadership: Students voted, planned & created their preferred project - Event / festival of music, food, games & animals.



What Next: Cinema room was close second in final vote, which school have identified as something to consider in new build, particularly with new film studio being created in Westmeath. Students embracing podcasting for sharing student voice in school.

Thank you, Yvonne & Aideen